



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 10, 2004

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## **SECOND HORSE, 8 BIRDS WITH WEST NILE VIRUS CONFIRMED** *South Bay Mare Found To Have Illness*

The second case of West Nile virus in a San Diego County horse this year has been confirmed in a 10-year-old mare in the South Bay, and eight more birds have tested positive for the virus, County officials said today.

The horse, stabled near the Tijuana River Valley area, was euthanized due to its inability to stand. The horse was not vaccinated for West Nile virus.

The first equine case was reported Aug. 10 in Bonsall in a 14-year-old Arab mix mare.

Of the eight birds that were reported to be positive for the virus today, three were from Escondido, two from El Cajon and one each from Descanso, Poway and Rancho Penasquitos. They included four western scrub jays, two crows, one red-shouldered hawk and one great horned owl. That brings the County's total to 18 birds confirmed positive for West Nile virus this year.

One man who lives in the County also tested positive for the virus but it appears he acquired the virus in the Los Angeles County, where he worked. The man, in his 50s, has been released from the hospital and is improving. His family has requested that no further information be given about him.

Residents can protect themselves from mosquito bites by wearing long sleeves and pants when outdoors, and using an insect repellent containing DEET on exposed skin and clothing.

For more information about the West Nile virus, the public can call the County's West Nile virus information line at 1-888-551-INFO (4636) or visit the County's West Nile virus Web site at [www.SDFighttheBite.com](http://www.SDFighttheBite.com).

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**Editors: For more information about vector control, call Mark Webb at 858-694-2364.**

**For more information on horses call Dr. Kerry Mahoney at 858-694-3061.**

**For more information on the effects of the virus on humans, call Leslie Ridgeway at 619-685-2239.**